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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Medical Services for Dependents

- 1. On 21 September 1970, Colonel White convened a meeting with Mr. Houston, Dr. Tietjen, Mr. Wattles, and the undersigned to discuss an extended medical benefits program. Colonel White stated that the Director had expressed the desire that we move positively to determine what could be done for Agency employees and dependents to provide medical benefits such as those available to military families. The Director had indicated his interest as stemming from knowledge of the financially crippling effect of major medical problems. The Director had specifically asked that the astronauts program be checked to determine what, if any, special benefits were available to these men and their families.
- 2. Colonel White noted the existence of the "CHAMPUS" program under which military personnel can use civilian hospitals with most of the charges being reimburseable. Mr. Wattles undertook to explore this through MMPD. Colonel White also asked Mr. Houston to look at the legal basis for the military medical system.
- 3. Dr. Tietjen noted that his reviews showed that the CIA and Foreign Service medical programs were better than those of any civilian organization and perhaps better than any U.S. Government system other than the military.
- 4. Colonel White then passed to us the job of carrying through on this matter, saying that he merely wished to set the stage and the tone in this initial meeting. He then suggested that we be prepared to send forward a paper on NASA within two weeks. Earlier on Colonel White suggested indirectly a sixty-day deadline on a general response.

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